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The Knothole, April 17, 1975

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body

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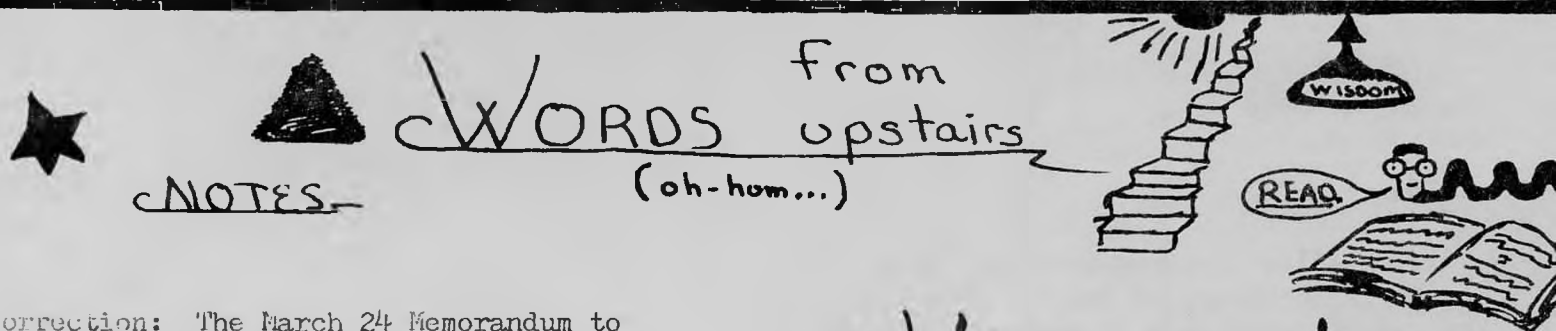
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Correction: The March 24 Memorandum to ESF degree candidates states that commencement rehearsal will be Wednesday, May 7. The rehearsal is actually on Thursday, May 8 at 10:00 a.m. in Manley Field House.

Reminders:

1. If you have not yet returned your audit form to the Registrar's Office, please do so immediately.
2. To Seniors and new students: please fill out and return your questionnaires to 107 Bray. Your constructive suggestions are needed.
3. Students: remember to check your student mailboxes periodically in the basement of Marshall.

ATTENTION

Student Affairs is presently conducting a survey of all "New Students" (Freshmen and Transfer students who entered ESF in the Fall of 1974). Your cooperation with this survey effort is greatly appreciated. I am sure you can understand the value and importance of the information we are requesting.

Please return the completed questionnaire you received to 107 Bray promptly. Thank you for your assistance.

William Sheldon
Coordinator of Career Services

LIB. NEWS & VIEWS

Beginning next fall ('75) Moon Library will initiate an Exchange Paperback Collection as an additional service to the students, faculty, staff and personal of ESF.

The Exchange Paperback Collection (EPC) will offer a variety of leisure reading material - ranging from the lurid to the ludicrous - above and beyond that currently available in the library.

The paperbacks contributed to EPC will be housed in the library; they will not be processed but simply displayed on the shelves with no supervision except for an occasional straightening.

The books that go into the collection depend on whatever material is contributed. Books will not be 'checked out' but users are on their honor to return at least as many books as they take (preferably more). The constant turnover in such a collection system should provide the leisure reader with more than enough variety.

In order for the EPC to begin operations in the fall, contributions are now being solicited (not that way!). If you've read any paperbacks and don't want to throw them out, donate them to the Exchange Paperback Collection - simply drop your books off at the main circulation desk in the library or in Room 105. Please be sure to specify that the books are for the collection.

Thanks, and Happy Reading!

NOTICE: The final issue of the Knothole will be that of Thursday, April 24th.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOTE: The attitudes, opinions and/or statements contained within these letters are those of their respective authors, and do not in any way represent the attitudes, opinions or statements of the Knothole or its staff in general. The Knothole invites commentary on its content or any topic of interest from responsible sources.

Sue Rogers
Editor-in-Chief

President Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear President Ford:

This letter concerns your nomination of Stanley K. Hathaway as the new Secretary of the Interior and not, as most of your mail doubtlessly does, your godawful State of the World address. Sir, I submit to you that you have made a callously purposeful decision in this nomination, and not a wise one. True, wise decisions are not your usual style, but Hathaway, during his two terms as governor of Wyoming and near-valet for strip-mining interests, established a reputation for being to environmentalists what Raid is to ants, flies, roaches, mosquitoes, etc. Certainly you must know this. A reluctance on your part to appoint someone on the magnitude of Barry Commoner to head the Interior Department is understandable; why, then must you so blithely embrace the notion of nominating this Patton of bulldozers?

But it is a bit too late to get you to reconsider your choice; all I can do is indicate my feelings to Messrs. Javits and Buckley. However, I wonder if the, er, conviction of Mr. Hathaway is a quality you find a secretly distressing lack of in your present Cabinet. I therefore undertake to suggest to you personalities who, if nominated to your dreary old Cabinet along with Mr. Hathaway, would bring a whole heaping pile of conviction to Washington and would press for their ideas with near-fanatical gusto.

For: Secretary of State: Yasir Arafat
Secretary of Defense: Patricia Hearst

Secretary of the Treasury:

Richard M. Nixon

Attorney General: Robert Vesco

Secretary of Transportation:

Evel Kneivel

Secretary of Agriculture:

Euell Gibbons

Secretary of H.U.D. :

Nelson A. "(Albany Mall)" Rockefeller

Secretary of H.E.W.: Imperial
Wizard Robert Shelton, United Klans
of America
Secretary of Commerce: Sheik Ahmed
Yamani

Naturally, Sir, I understand that you might find implementation of these suggestions tempting if you could, 1) find a replacement for Mr. Rockefeller as Vice President, and 2) induce your present Cabinet to resign. The solution to both these problems is obvious: Nominate me to be Vice President. In all modesty, Sir, I maintain I'd be an excellent Vice President, being as I am a college student I would find it a stimulating and lucrative part-time job. The Apparent insanity of such an act would induce the present Cabinet to resign with great alacrity. Indeed, I should think that under such circumstances they'd rather be officers aboard Herman Wouk's U.S.S. Caine than Secretaries in your Cabinet.

In closing this letter, Sir, may I ask you to give serious consideration to the suggestions in this letter. Not, of course, that they should be taken seriously; I merely hope that somehow this letter will manage to preoccupy a few moments of your time and thusly give America a few moments of grace before your next Hathaway-style boo-boo. Wishing you well, Sir, I respectfully remain

Yours truly,
Marc R. Caulfield

To the Students:

There is a social club on this campus. It is easy to join - all that you have to do is spend your evenings studying in Moon Library. If you attend enough times, you get to be a regular; other people will recognize you and a great camaraderie will develop with your fellow students. It is a great deal of fun. You can tell that it is a social club because of the appearance of the meeting room each night after everyone is gone. Gum and candy wrappers, paper scraps, soda cans, old newspapers and note sheets, even the furniture are left everywhere and anywhere. Obviously a good time is had by all. Granted, there is not a lot of trash accumulation until Monday morning, but then, all the really big occasions are on the weekend, aren't they?

More and more people will be finding their way to Moon as finals approach and the place will get pretty wild. The regulars hate this time of year because so many strangers show up for the nightly meetings. However, everyone, especially the regulars, can help make Moon as pleasant as possible by throwing his own trash away and recycling the newspapers and notebook paper. It is a real pain to go to Moon and find an empty carrell, only to be greeted by a sticky pile of orange peels and a half-emptied coffee cup. We have wastebaskets; have consideration for your fellow student.

A Former Regular,
Jon Babcock

Environmental Issues guide published and available

"Environmental Issues," a 50-page informational guide to curricula, lesson plans and sources, is now available to teachers planning environmental education programs, or anyone else having interest in the material. The publication was prepared from source submitted by 130 teachers throughout western New York and selected by a committee of educators. Published jointly by the Environmental Resource Center at the College at Geneseo and the Rochester Committee for Scientific Information, the guide can be obtained from the Center for Environmental Information, 33 S. Washington Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14608, or from Geneseo's Environmental Resource Center.



Only who
can prevent
Forest
Hires ?

Dear Editor:

As a member of the ESI recycling club, I would like to take this time to ask students, faculty, and whomever it may concern, to show a little more respect to students who take the time to recycle paper. Many times in the past, we have come across dirty coffee cups and cigarette butts. I would like to ask the contributors of such generous gifts to try to remember (we even have a sign on the bin to remind those of you who can read) to place such objects in a garbage can. I realize that the signs on the bins fail to mention the fact that we cannot recycle fish, but who can think of everything? By this I mean that the half-pound bag of raw shrimp we recently found in one of the bins would be a bit hard to recycle into useful paper. I suppose we could bury it, allow it to be naturally recycled, plant a seed in the fertile soil, and allow it to grow into a nice tree from which we could produce paper, but the club may not be around that long. I'm sure you understand.

Seriously, all I'm asking is that you think before you throw non-paper products in our recycling bins. Such items can easily discourage students from recycling and we need all the help we can get to keep our club going. I would also like to thank those who have been faithful contributors of useful paper. Keep up the good work!

Kathy Lawler

"Environmentalism and American Industry"

Americans love new words. The latest is "environmentalism". It applies to the entire range of cursaders whose objective appears to be all mixed up with the current fixation on Mother Nature. In fact, what it could accomplish is a shutdown of American industry.

It looks as though the environment will receive a great deal of attention in the next Congress, and while it is obvious that some very substantial environmental amendments will be absolutely required, it appears that a revision of current deadlines is needed to allow attaining our goals without unnecessarily disrupting the economy by crash programs. Much of the heat generated between the government and industries relative to the environment stems from unsolicited and uninformed volunteers whose complaints and charges are given the widest publicity without adequate explanations from the "other side".

Little is heard about sacrificing extra autos, air-conditioning, cleaner heat, and a host of home, farm, and manufacturing machines all run by electricity. Soaring energy costs will undoubtedly accompany the many safeguards against pollutants being clamped on industry. It does little good to point out that abolishing surface mining would create havoc in the Appalachian Mountain areas, for enthusiasts supporting a ban hear only those arguments which support their claims.

If the cleanup proceeds at such a pace that businesses are forced out of existence the result is not just the loss of business profits; it will also include the loss of jobs, government revenue, and the government's fiscal stability.

Since its coming into being, the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) has spawned a vast system of local and state environmental regulations and rules that have caused the mining industry, for one, to assign more than 22% of its annual budget to non-profit environmental controls. Pollution control, therefore, has a devastating effect on inflation. Some environmentalists have demanded immediate purity of the environment, even at the cost of zero growth!

The E.P.A. has control of the awesome power over the very life of a publicly held corporation, the power to destroy that corporation (including the investments of its stockholders), and finally, the frightening power to render jobless the employees of

that company. In short, the E.P.A. has the capability of destroying the economy of the United States.

In the future, we would appreciate a greater voice in environmental legislation, and that people take on a more open-minded approach on achieving quality of our environment. We are sure that the President will find it necessary to compromise between the Congressional cleanup timetable and his inescapable responsibility for fiscal stability.

Bill Guyette

OPINIONS ASKED

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has invited the public to write in their comments on a petition that would ban the sale of handgun ammunition.

The commission emphasized that it wants comments in writing, preferably five copies, addressed to: The Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, P.O. Box 8137, Washington, D.C., 20024.

Submitted by the Chicago based Committee for Hand Gun Control, Inc., the petition asked that handgun ammunition be banned as a hazardous substance.

Those wishing to express opinions should indicate how the proposed ban on handgun ammunition would affect them as individuals with respect to the legitimate recreational pursuits of handgun hunting, target shooting and plinking. Significantly, the proposed ban would also affect handguns and rifles with interchangeable calibres, notably .22 rimfire ammunition.

Quote of the week:

"I'm not going to argue with you, Annese!"

Arthur "Duke" Gutman
Summer 1979

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Selling the LAND . . .

BOTANY CLUB NEWS

The following is from a letter sent by Chief Sealath of the Duwamish Tribe in Washington to President Franklin Pierce in 1855. The material appeared recently in Newsleaf, the publication of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

"The Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. How can you buy or sell the sky--the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. Yet we do not own the freshness of the air or the sparkle of the water. How can you buy them from us? Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shiny pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people.

"We know that white man does not understand our ways. One portion of the land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother but his enemy, and when he has conquered it he moves on. He leaves his father's graves, and his children's birthright is forgotten.

"There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the leaves of spring or the rustle of insect wings. But perhaps because I am savage and do not understand--the clatter only seems to insult the ears. And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lovely cry of the whippoorwill or the arguments of the frog at night, around the pool.

"The whites too, shall pass--perhaps sooner than other tribes. Continue to contaminate your bed and you will one night suffocate in your own waste. When the buffalo are all slaughtered, the wild horses all tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men, and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wives. Where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. And what is it to say goodbye to the swift and the hunt, the end of living and beginning of surviving."

The Botany Club will have Dr. Westfall present a tree grafting demonstration tomorrow, April 18, at 4:00 p.m. The demonstration will take place in the old greenhouse, south of Bray Hall. Grafting is another method of vegetative propagation used quite commonly in genetic improvement of tree species and orchard establishment. This demonstration should prove interesting.

At this time I would like to thank Dr. Ketchledge for all the assistance has given me in my attempts to plan and organize activities for the Botany Club. I have enjoyed working for this club and making many new friends. I would also like to thank all those who have participated in the activities, making them a success. It was very worthwhile.

Werner L. Kist

N.Y.S. Wild, Scenic, & Recreational River System

In 1972, the State Legislature passed the New York State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act. Since then, over 1000 miles of rivers within the Adirondack Park have been studied and recommended for Classification within the system.

- The studies include inventory of physical, biological and man-made features of the rivers and of land corridors off each bank. Once incorporated into the System, these rivers are afforded special protection by law against misuse and over-development.

As part of the Bob Marshall Club Lecture Series, "American Wilderness: Contemporary Attitudes," Gary Randorf of the Adirondack Park Agency will present a slide talk and discuss with us the Rivers System. The presentation will be tonight, Thursday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. in 212 Marshall.

This lecture and discussion is definitely of particular importance to those who have hiked, canoed, swum, hunted and fished in the Adirondacks. Much effort has been put forth and is continuing in securing portions of the Adirondack Park as land which is to remain unpolluted and unencroached on by the effects of man. The same effort is being applied toward securing the rivers of the Adirondack Park.

Only God can make a tree--
Only Man can make a buck...

• 5 •

Richard Feldman

Easing the Spreading Chestnut Blight

by Karen Beil

The chestnut blight, which wiped out 9 million acres of the eastern states' most valuable hardwood at the turn of the century and left behind gray ghosts of the American chestnut, is being attacked by pathologists at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. They recently found that when they injected two strains of the blight-causing fungus into a specimen, the less virulent strain reduced the potency of the more lethal strain.

Dr. Richard A. Jaynes, associate geneticist at the Experiment Station, said the European species of chestnut is also susceptible to the blight, but it has been found in Europe to carry a less virulent strain of fungus. If American chestnuts in the wild could be infected with this strain, perhaps the more virulent fungus could be held at bay until the American species develops a resistance to blight.

This experimental study requires more examination and some practical solutions before it can be ever considered a viable control technique for the disease. It is part of a larger research project in which scientists have been attempting since the late 1940's to breed resistance into American chestnuts from genetically-resistant Chinese and Japanese chestnuts. In physical characteristics, the main difference is that the Oriental species have a more spreading shape than the American, resulting in hybrids which do not equal the stature or lumber-quality of the American.

As is the case with most imported forest diseases and insects, the chestnut blight, which came from Asia, spread quickly in its new home. It was first discovered here in 1904 in the New York Zoological Park. Within less than 50 years it had ravaged the natural range of American chestnuts in the Eastern third of the country. It was unhampered by the natural

resistance to the disease inbred by nature into the oriental species of the chestnut.

Dr. Jaynes and other researchers suspect that a virus-like particle may be involved in the mechanism, but it has not yet been proved. One thing of which they are certain is that the agent of the disease is carried in the cytoplasm, rather than in the nucleus of the fungus. The scientists believe that when the strains come in contact, they exchange material and each becomes less virulent.

So far the less virulent form, said Dr. Jaynes, has not produced spores as effectively as the more lethal, which could be a severe disadvantage in the field, yet in Europe it has held its own.

This concept is being tried in an experimental forest in Hamden, Conn. At least two years will be required to determine the effect of the research.

At the Universities of Virginia and Tennessee, scientists have been working with radiation-treated chestnuts in hopes of creating genetic changes toward blight-resistance. Fungicides have mostly failed. But recently a product of du Pont de Nemours, called MBC (methyl-2-benzimidazole carbamate) has shown some success. It is similar to fungicides used to combat the Dutch elm disease.

What the pathologists are searching for is a control which doesn't require pampering and single-tree application, but rather a control that can have more widespread and, therefore, more economical impact on American chestnuts in the wild.

Under the spreading chestnut tree, the village smithy of Longfellow fame stands no more. But perhaps with the research efforts by people like Dr. Jaynes and his constituents the American chestnut might be returned to the American scene, or at least a sampling could be saved.

Tree Champs

by Phillip C. Capone

The icy winds of winter have recently stirred up renewed interest in the New York State's Big Tree Contest in the North Country. The two week period from January 31st to February 14th saw Forester Peter Grupe, outfitted with diameter tape, clinometer and camera, traversing snow covered terrain in search of woody monarchs. Five specimens of noteworthy botanical stature were encountered. Their physiological features were carefully measured and recorded and submitted to Albany for evaluation.

A tree's merits for potential State supremacy are determined by applying the American Forestry Association's tree rating system. Under this system the tree's circumference in inches, its height in feet and one-fourth its crown spread in feet are added together resulting in a numerical rating. The total points a tree receives will determine its place among other trees of the same species.

All of the candidates submitted are within the Adirondack Park. Jack Pine, Pitch Pine, Tamarack and Red Spruce outdistanced the existing champs for those species. The Red Spruce which demolished the reigning champ by some 22 points is located approximately 200 yards from the starting gate of the Mt. Van Hoevenberg Olympic Bob Sled Run.

The remaining submission, White Fir, was a new species added to the Big Tree list. In addition to the 5 previously mentioned species the Clinton, Essex, Franklin County area also lays claim to three additional state champs, Scotch Pine, Balsam Fir and Trembling Aspen. Of these eight state record holders, the Balsam Fir, Trembling Aspen, Jack Pine, and the White Fir are situated within the Village Limits of the Adirondacks' largest community, Saranac Lake.

Credit:
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DEC's
N.Y.S.
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ment